

Media Release

The Hon Colin Brooks MP
Minister for Development Victoria
Minister for Precincts
Minister for Creative Industries



Tuesday, 3 December 2024

REDEVELOPMENT OPENS UP ACCESS AT BAKEHOUSE STUDIOS

Bakehouse Studios has hosted music legends from Paul Kelly to Elvis Costello and Blondie, and now the iconic rehearsal and recording studios will be more accessible than ever before thanks to a redevelopment backed by the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks marked International Day of People with Disability by launching the new accessible facilities, which open up new opportunities for Deaf artists and musicians and those with a disability.

The \$500,000 investment by the Labor Government has funded the installation of an elevator and the retrofitting of downstairs bathrooms for accessibility.

Bakehouse, one of Australia's best-known recording studios, opened in 1991 and moved to a former rag trade factory on Hoddle St in 1995. The venue has a range of spaces for artists to record, rehearse, shoot music videos and for other creative projects.

Until now, musicians and visitors could only access level one by the stairs. The upgrade will ensure this historic site is accessible to everyone – now and into the future.

To celebrate the redevelopment, Bakehouse is partnering with Arts Access Victoria to host a series of residencies and performances that showcase Deaf musicians and those with a disability.

The Bakehouse redevelopment project was part of a \$35.4 million package of initiatives in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* to strengthen Victoria's music industry. Find out more about upcoming performances, residencies and bursaries at [Bakehouse via their website](#).

Quotes attributable to Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks

"This redevelopment will ensure this iconic space is accessible to even more musicians and industry workers and sets an example for other creative spaces across our state and beyond."

"Accessibility is not just about physical space - it's about the freedom to fully participate in the creative process, to be part of a community, and to contribute to the cultural fabric of our state."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Enver Erdogan

"This redevelopment ensures that this cornerstone of Victoria's music industry is accessible to everyone – empowering Deaf artists and musicians and those with a disability to make their mark in one of our state's most iconic creative spaces."

Quotes attributable to Bakehouse Studios co-founder Helen Marcou

"After years of fundraising and advocacy, the dream of a disability inclusive space is now being realised. This investment by the Victorian Government will not only future proof Bakehouse but ensure participation from artists who were previously excluded from their creative community."

Quotes attributable to Arts Access Victoria Deputy CEO/General Manager Nikki Zerella

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“Bakehouse Studios are creating access to a vital development and showcase space at the centre of the Australian music scene. They have taken this significant step to ensure no one is left behind.

“We couldn’t be prouder to bear witness to their commitment and dedication to equity. Bakehouse shows us the true power music has in connecting us all.”